

House File 574 - Introduced

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BY SORENSEN

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the offer and teach requirements under the
2 educational standards.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsection 5, unnumbered
 2 paragraph 1, Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:
 3 In grades nine through twelve, a unit of credit consists of a
 4 course or equivalent related components or partial units taught
 5 throughout the academic year. If fewer than ten students
 6 typically register for a specified unit required under this
 7 subsection, the unit need not be taught each school year but
 8 shall be taught not less than once every three years. The
 9 minimum program to be ~~offered and~~ taught for grades nine
 10 through twelve is:

11 Sec. 2. Section 256.42, subsection 7, paragraph a,
 12 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2019, is amended to read as
 13 follows:

14 The provisions of [section 256.11, subsection 5](#), which
 15 require that specified subjects be ~~offered and~~ taught by a
 16 school district or accredited nonpublic school, shall not apply
 17 for up to two specified subjects at a school district or school
 18 under [this section](#) if any of the following apply:

19 Sec. 3. Section 256.42, subsection 7, paragraph b, Code
 20 2019, is amended to read as follows:

21 *b.* The department ~~may~~ shall waive for one school year
 22 the applicability of [section 256.11, subsection 5](#), ~~at its~~
 23 ~~discretion~~, to additional specified subjects for a school
 24 district or accredited nonpublic school that proves to the
 25 satisfaction of the department that the school district or
 26 school has made every reasonable effort, but is unable to meet
 27 the requirements of [section 256.11, subsection 5](#). A school
 28 district or accredited nonpublic school may apply for an annual
 29 waiver each year.

30 EXPLANATION

31 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
 32 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

33 This bill amends Iowa's educational standards to strike
 34 the requirement that subjects be offered annually by school
 35 districts and accredited nonpublic schools and amends a

1 provision under Code section 256.42, relating to the Iowa
2 learning online initiative, to require that the department
3 of education waive for one year the educational standards
4 for additional subjects when a school district or accredited
5 nonpublic school proves to the satisfaction of the department
6 that the school district or school has made every reasonable
7 effort but is unable to meet the standard for the specified
8 subject.

9 The bill also provides that if fewer than 10 students
10 typically register for a specified unit of coursework under the
11 minimum program, the unit need not be taught each year but must
12 be taught not less than once every three years.

13 Currently, Code section 256.42 provides that the state's
14 educational program "offer and teach" course requirements at
15 the high school level shall not apply for up to two specified
16 subjects at a school district or accredited nonpublic school if
17 the district or school makes every reasonable effort to employ
18 a licensed teacher for the class but is unable to staff the
19 class, or if fewer than 10 students typically register for the
20 course. In addition, the department is authorized to issue
21 a one-year waiver for additional subjects. However, if the
22 school district or school meets the specified conditions or
23 the department issues a waiver, the courses must be provided
24 by the department's Iowa learning online initiative unless it
25 lacks the capacity, in which case the course may be offered by
26 the school district or school through an online platform or
27 through a private provider that meets standards approved by the
28 director of the department.